

Claims:

1. A suture trimmer, the suture trimmer  
comprising:

5 a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end and  
an axis therebetween, the shaft having a groove formed  
in the side thereof, the groove in communication with an  
opening formed in the side of the shaft, the opening  
disposed proximal the distal end;

10 a cutting member slidably disposed within the  
shaft; and

a suture retainer slidably disposed within the  
shaft.

15 2. The suture trimmer according to Claim 1,  
wherein suture trimmer further includes a handle, the  
handle disposed adjacent the proximal end of the shaft.

20 3. The suture trimmer according to Claim 2,  
wherein the handle further includes a first lever and a  
second lever, the first lever operatively coupled to the  
suture retainer and the second lever operatively coupled  
to the cutting member.

4. The suture trimmer according to Claim 3,  
wherein the main handle further includes at least one  
biasing member, the biasing member connected to at least  
one of the cutting member and suture retainer.

5. The suture trimmer according to Claim 4,  
wherein the cutting member includes a sharpened portion,  
the sharpened portion adapted to engage the fitting to  
sever suture when suture is disposed through the groove  
and opening.

6. The suture trimmer according to Claim 5,  
wherein the sharpened edge of the cutting member is  
retracted within the shaft until withdrawn by applying a  
force to the second lever.

7. The suture trimmer according to Claim 6,  
wherein the suture is disposed within the groove and  
opening by retracting the suture guide within the shaft  
by applying a force to the first lever.

8. A method for trimming suture, the method comprising:

disposing a suture loop within tissue of a patient, the suture loop including at least one knot and at least one free end of suture;

disposing the free end of suture through a groove and an opening formed in a distal end of a suture trimmer; and

actuating a cutting member within the suture trimmer, the cutting member configured to sever the suture disposed in the opening.

9. The method according to Claim 8, further including positioning the knot with the distal tip of the suture trimmer.

10. The method according to Claim 8, wherein disposing the free end of the suture through a groove and opening comprises retracting a suture retainer within the suture trimmer.

11. The method according to Claim 10, wherein  
activating a cutting member comprises applying a force  
to a lever in communication with the cutting member, the  
cutting member being retracted from a shielded position  
within a shaft of the suture trimmer to an exposed  
position, the exposed position configured to trim the  
suture.

12. A suture trimmer, the suture trimmer  
comprising:

a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end  
defining an axis therebetween, the shaft including a  
groove formed in the side thereof, the groove in  
communication with an opening formed in the side of the  
shaft, the opening disposed proximal the distal end;

a cutting member formed within an edge of the  
opening; and

a suture retainer having a proximal end and a  
distal end, the suture retainer disposed within a bore  
of the shaft.

13. The suture trimmer according to Claim 12,  
wherein the suture trimmer further includes a handle,  
the handle connected to the proximal end of the suture  
retainer.

14. The suture trimmer according to Claim 13,  
wherein the suture trimmer further includes at least one  
biasing member disposed within a chamber of the handle,  
the biasing member operatively connected to the shaft.

15. The suture trimmer according to Claim 14,  
wherein the suture trimmer further includes at least one  
lever, the lever operatively connected to the shaft.

16. The suture trimmer according to Claim 15,  
wherein the shaft may be moved relative to the suture  
retainer wherein the cutting edge of the shaft is  
configured to sever suture when suture is disposed  
through the groove and opening.

17. The suture retainer according to Claim 12,  
wherein the suture retainer includes a handle, the  
handle including at least one lever, the lever  
operatively connected to the suture retainer.

18. The suture retainer according to Claim 17,  
wherein the handle is rotatable relative to the axis of  
the shaft and configured to rotate the suture retainer  
relative to the shaft assembly.

19. The suture retainer according to Claim 18,  
wherein the suture retainer includes a second lever, the  
second lever operatively coupled to the suture retainer,  
the second lever and suture retainer further configured  
to move along the axis of the shaft when a force is  
applied thereto.

20. The suture retainer according to Claim 19,  
wherein the suture retainer further includes at least  
one biasing member disposed within a chamber of the  
handle, the biasing member operatively connected to the  
suture retainer.